

## RESEARCH COUNCIL Webinar Working Group (WWG)

### Background on the ReCo Webinar Series

The ISA is a unique organization. International in focus and consisting of two types of members (individual and collective) it brings together sociologists from all continents in the pursuit of scientific dialogue and discovery.

The ISA counts 68 Research Committees, Working Groups and Thematic Groups (RCs/WGs/TGs), which cover the impressive range of sub-disciplines in sociology. The Research Council (ReCo) is the governing body of these topic-specific collectives. While the ISA's in-person Congress and Forum are already places for the RCs/WGs/TGs to meet and exchange, there has been a vibrant discussion within the ReCo about the need and interest to benefit from our global membership and offer a space for the cross-fertilization of ideas from the diverse RCs/WGs/TGs.

### Aims and Scope

The **purpose** of this series is to:

- Organize a series of cross-cutting webinars that are of interest to ISA RCs/WGs/TGs members because they facilitate scientific discussions around current research
- Facilitate the collaboration of ISA RCs/WGs/TGs
- Record these webinars and make them available to ISA members who can use them in their teaching or other forms of training/engagement

The **theme** of the series is focused on “**Reconnecting RCs/WGs/TGs**” whereby we will have thematic sessions that start from a common entry point and explore how the topic is approached differently and can engage different sociological approaches in dialogue among two or more RCs/WGs/TGs.

The 2025 Webinar Series will consist of four webinars that will address following themes: 1) Our Planet and Us; 2) Sociology-Policy Interfaces; 3) Global Cities, People and Crises; 4) How to approach AI in teaching/researching in Sociology?



## Global Cities, people and crises

This webinar is organized by Research Committees RC20 (Comparative Sociology), RC21 (Urban and Regional Development), and RC26 (Sociotechnics and Sociological Practice) of the International Sociological Association. These networks have joined together to present current research investigating the reactions to several crises through alternative ways of knowing and organizing in urban communities. Cities have long been centers of economic, political, and cultural dynamism, shaping and being shaped by global flows of capital, people, and ideas. However, contemporary urbanization is increasingly marked by crises—ranging from climate change and housing affordability to migration, pandemics, violence, and socio-economic inequalities. These crises have profound implications for how cities function, who benefits from urban development, and how urban residents navigate everyday life. There is also a growing recognition that urban regions are critical in enabling responses to such crises as well, offering opportunities to deal with these complex challenges. Disappointment with life in the city, for example, can also lead to the decision to leave the urban environment and settle in rural areas. In this case, urban migrants either become mini-farmers or keep their urban profession and continue to work online. In this way, the city goes beyond its former geographical boundaries and “spreads out” over territories. Presenters will discuss their research based on their work in Asia, Central America and Europe.

**10 October 2025 | 10:00 – 11:30 GMT**

Chair: Allison Marie Loconto, CNRS-INRAE-Université Gustave Eiffel (ISA VP Research)

### **Spatial Justice, Contested Governance and Livelihood Challenges in Bangladesh: The Production of Counterspace**

Lutfun Lata, University of Melbourne (RC21)

### **Migrants in Lisbon and Mexico City. Navigating conflicts and traumas in accessing housing, employment and rights**

Cristina Gomes, Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences Mexico (FLACSO)- (RC20) and Martha Estrada Rivera

### **Megacities, the centrifugal migration of urbanites to rural areas and the post-agrarian practices of urbanites in rural areas**

Nikita Pokrovsky, Higher School of Economics Moscow (HSE) (RC26)

**Discussants:** Neha Sami, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS); Arsenii Buchatskii, Higher School of Economics Moscow (HSE)



## About the Speakers:



**Lutfun Nahar Lata** is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy and the Director - International and Partnerships in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. Lutfun's primary research area focuses on the Sociology of work and employment including the gig economy and the future of work. Her research has been published in a number of high-ranking international journals such as *The Sociological Review*, *Current Sociology* and *Gender, Work & Organization*.



**Cristina Gomes** is a professor and researcher at Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences - FLACSO Mexico and a consultant for the National Secretariat of Science and Technology of Panama. She has been a visiting professor at Universidad Catholica do Salvador in Brazil and at Uppsala University in Sweden and has worked as Regional Advisor on Population and Development for Latin America and the Caribbean at the United Nations Population Fund, the Ford Foundation, and The Population Council. In Mexico, she has served as Coordinator of Advisors for the National Population Council and as an evaluator for social policies in Brazil and Mexico



**Nikita Pokrovsky** is Professor at Higher School of Economics Moscow (HSE)



**Martha E. Rivera** is a Ph.D. candidate in Population Sciences at the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon (ICS-UL). Her research focuses on the social mobility and spatial integration of second-generation Portuguese in the U.S. She currently collaborates with the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD). Her academic background includes Actuarial Science (UNAM) and a Master's in Population and Development (FLACSO-Mexico).



**Arsenii Buchatskii** is a research assistant at the Higher School of Economics (HSE) Institute for Longitudinal Studies of Inequality and Social Reform (ILSIR). He specializes in social inclusion, integration, and community studies, and has experience working with NGOs and international scientific projects.



**Neha Sami** is Associate Dean at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) at the School of Environment and Sustainability. She studies urban and regional development, and governance in post-liberalisation India. Her research focuses on the governance of infrastructure, especially mega-infrastructure in the context of post-liberalisation urban India. She also works on questions of environmental governance focusing on institutional analysis and state capacity. Her recent work has also looked at the political economy of higher education in urban studies.